Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-6. (Canceled).

7. (Original): A tissue fixation device comprising:

a suture;

a first pledget having at least one through hole formed therein, a first portion of the suture passing through the at least one through hole in the first pledget and a second portion of the suture configured to inhibit the second portion from passing through the at least one through hole in the first pledget;

a second pledget having at least one through hole formed therein, the first pledget being spaced apart from the second pledget to receive tissue therebetween when the tissue fixation device is deployed;

a first securing element connected to a portion of the suture, the first securing element being rotatable from

a first orientation in which the securing element is oriented at least substantially parallel to the at least one through hole formed in the first pledget and the second pledget, to

a second orientation in which the securing element is oriented at least substantially perpendicular to the at least one through hole in the second pledget.

8. (Original): The tissue fixation device of claim 7, further comprising a second suture and a second securing element connected to a portion of the second suture.

9. (Original): The tissue fixation device of claim 8, wherein a first portion of the second suture passes through a second through hole in the first pledget and a second portion of the suture is configured to inhibit the second portion of the suture from passing through the second through hole in the first pledget.

10. (Original): The tissue fixation device of claim 9, wherein the second securing element is rotatable from

a first position in which the second securing element is oriented at least substantially parallel to the second through hole in the first pledget and a second through hole in the second pledget to

a second position in which the securing element is oriented at least substantially perpendicular to the second through hole in the second pledget.

11. (Currently Amended): A tissue fixation device comprising:

a suture suitable for in vivo placement in a human or animal body;

a first biocompatible securing element connected to a first portion of the suture; and

a second biocompatible securing element connected to a second portion of the suture, each said first and second securing elements being rotatable from a first position during deployment of the tissue fixation device that is suitable for each securing element to pass through a respective hole formed in human or animal tissue to a second position when the tissue fixation device is deployed that inhibits each securing element from passing through the respective hole formed in ~~the~~ said tissue.

12. (Currently Amended): The tissue fixation device of claim 11, wherein the first and second securing elements are spaced apart from a third portion of the suture when the tissue fixation device is deployed, the human or animal tissue being fixed between the securing elements and the third portion during deployment.

13. (Original): The tissue fixation device of claim 12, wherein a portion of the suture is coupled to another portion of the suture.

14. (Original): The tissue fixation device of claim 13, wherein the portions are coupled by knotting.

15. (Original): The tissue fixation device of claim 13, wherein the portions are coupled by welding.

16. (Original): The tissue fixation device of claim 13, wherein the first portion of the suture passes through openings in the first securing element.

17. (Original): The tissue fixation device of claim 16, wherein the second portion of the suture passes through openings in the second securing element.

18. (Original): The tissue fixation device of claim 11, further comprising a first pledget having a plurality of through holes formed therein, the suture passing through the through holes in the first pledget.

19. (Original): The tissue fixation device of claim 18, further comprising a second pledget having a plurality of through holes formed therein, the suture passing through the through holes in the second pledget, the second pledget being spaced apart from the first pledget when the tissue fixation device is deployed.

20. (Original): The tissue fixation device of claim 18, wherein the suture passes through the through holes as to enable the pledget to be positioned between the first and second securing elements and the tissue when the tissue fixation device is deployed.

21. (Original): The tissue fixation device of claim 18, wherein the suture has two ends, and both ends are disposed on the same side of the first pledget.

22. (Original): The tissue fixation device of claim 11, wherein the first securing element and the second securing element are oriented at least substantially parallel to the holes in the tissue in the first position.

23. (Original): The tissue fixation device of claim 11, wherein the first securing element and the second securing element are oriented at least substantially perpendicular to the holes in the tissue in the second position.

24. (Original): The tissue fixation device of claim 11, wherein the first securing element and the second securing element are each generally cylindrical in shape.

25. (Original): The tissue fixation device of claim 11, wherein each said first securing element and second securing element includes a sharp tip.

26. (Original): The tissue fixation device of claim 11, wherein each said first securing element and second securing element have an elongated shape such that the long axis of the securing element is larger than the diameter of the respective hole.

27. (Original): The tissue fixation device of claim 11, wherein the suture is endless.

28. (Original): The tissue fixation device of claim 11, wherein the suture forms a closed loop.

29-40. (Canceled).

41. (Original): A tissue fixation device comprising:

a suture;

a first pledget having a plurality of through holes formed therein, the suture passing through the through holes in the first pledget;

a second pledget having a plurality of through holes formed therein, the first pledget being spaced apart from the second pledget to receive tissue therebetween when the tissue fixation device is deployed;

a first securing element having a sharp tip and a proximal end configured for removable attachment to an instrument, the first securing element being coupled to the suture; and

a second securing element having a sharp tip and a proximal end configured for removable attachment to an instrument, the second securing element being coupled to the suture.

42. (New): The tissue fixation device of claim 7, wherein said suture comprises a material suitable for suturing human or animal tissue in vivo, and

said securing element comprises biocompatible material.

43. (New): The tissue fixation device of claim 8, wherein said second suture comprises a material suitable for suturing human or animal tissue in vivo, and

said second securing element comprises biocompatible material.

44. (New): The tissue fixation device of claim 41, wherein said suture comprises a material suitable for suturing human or animal tissue in vivo, and

said second securing elements comprise biocompatible material